

Pool 7/21/66
HUAC Bill
Opposed by
Justice Dept.

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The House Committee on Un-American Activities, stung for a week with the shouts and tumult of hostile witnesses, now faces Justice Department opposition to its bill to prohibit American citizens from giving direct aid to the Vietcong.

It was learned yesterday that the Department is against the measure on several grounds, among them concern that the bill amounts to an infringement on the constitutional right of free speech and assembly.

In addition, the Department feels that the bill is unnecessary. It claims that existing laws cover the type of activity that prompted Rep. Joe R. Pool (D-Tex.) and other committee members to introduce it.

The Department outlined its position in a letter to the Committee. Deputy Attorney General Ramsey Clark is scheduled to present it verbally when he appears before the Committee Tuesday.

Friday marked the end of

fact-finding hearings by the Committee, among the most tumultuous in its 21-year history. The Tuesday session has been scheduled to gather opinions on the proposal.

Unless the Department can persuade it otherwise, the Committee plans to conclude its hearings Tuesday and, if possible, vote to approve the bill on the same day.

The bill would make it a criminal offense for any American citizen to give, attempt to give or advise others to give "any money, property, or thing" to any country, group or person "acting in hostile opposition to the armed forces of the United States."

It would also apply to any American who gives or collects money for such a purpose.

Another section of the bill would prohibit Americans from obstructing military personnel or transportation. Those found guilty of either section could be sentenced to prison for up to 20 years and fined \$20,000.

Pool was prompted to draft the bill after reading that some anti-war groups collected blood and money, for medical supplies to be sent to North Vietnam.

He was also aroused by an unsuccessful attempt by protestors to stop a troop train at the Oakland, Calif., army terminal.